

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
PETITION FOR WAIVER OF)	CG Docket No. 05-231
REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION)	
REQUIREMENT OF CLOSED)	
CAPTIONING RULES)	

COMMENTS OF CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Boston (“Boston”)¹ and its PEG Access television services are delivered by the Boston Neighborhood Network (“BNN-TV”)² and the Boston Department of Innovation and Technologies Office of Broadband and Cable (“DoIT”³). We file these comments together in

¹ The City of Boston is the capital and most populous city of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts covering 48 square miles with an estimated population of 667,137 in 2015 and thus making it the largest city in New England and the 23rd most populous city in the United States. The City of Boston exists under Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909 and Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which, as amended, constitute the City’s Charter. The Mayor is elected to a four-year term and serves as chief executive officer of the City. The Mayor has general supervision of and control over the City’s boards, commissions, officers and departments. The legislative body of the City is the City Council, which consists of 13 elected members serving two-year terms.

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh was sworn in on January 6, 2014 as the City’s 54th Mayor. Prior to his service as Mayor, Mayor Walsh was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, serving as the State Representative from the Thirteenth Suffolk District from 1997 through 2013. Mayor Walsh continues to work tirelessly towards making Boston a city where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. He has identified five key priorities that build upon Boston’s strengths while bringing the City into the future. The key priorities are; strengthening the economy, improving public safety and combating gun violence, ensuring that Boston Public Schools enable every child to succeed, increasing accessibility and transparency in city government, and serving all of Boston’s neighborhoods and residents.

² Boston Neighborhood Network is a nationally recognized, award-winning community media center and 501(c)(3) nonprofit that acts as a public forum for all Boston residents, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and governmental and educational institutions, providing them with affordable training and access to emerging media technologies. BNN is a landmark institution built by and for the community. While many cities are defined by their skylines, Boston is distinguished by 23 historic neighborhoods. BNN is geographically located near the center of these neighborhoods, offering equal access to media education, digital technology, media production and distribution capacity. Our members, partners, supporters, daily visitors, as well as our channel programming lineup represent the diversity of our city.

³ The Broadband & Cable Office within the DoIT oversees Educational and Government Access (“PEG”) operations and programming, as well as the financial support and oversight of PEG programming by the Boston Community

support of the Alliance for Community Media's Petition to Waive the Registration and Certification Requirement of the Closed Captioning Rules that are the subject of this proceeding.

Boston and BNN are not legally required to caption as each entity meets a number of the captioning exemptions found in 47 C.F.R. 79.1(d)⁴. Nonetheless, the city administration in

Access and Programming Foundation, Inc. ("BCAPF") as part of its cable responsibilities including licensing, negotiating, enforcing and monitoring cable, telecom and wireless network licensing and access contracts.

Boston City TV covers city news, notices, public affairs, school sports and educational programming on cable and online. City TV also delivers programming in a "City-Span" format for public meetings such as Boston School Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Boston Planning and Development Agency, Public Improvement Commission, and the Persons with Disabilities Commission Advisory Board. It provides captioning services for all, as well as the City Council.

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. 79.1(d) provides that to be exempt from closed captioning "...any video programming or video programming provider [must] ... meet... one or more of the following criteria....:

(1) *Programming subject to contractual captioning restrictions.* Video programming that is subject to a contract in effect on or before February 8, 1996, but not any extension or renewal of such contract, for which an obligation to provide closed captioning would constitute a breach of contract.

(2) *Video programming or video programming provider for which the captioning requirement has been waived.* Any video programming or video programming provider for which the Commission has determined that a requirement for closed captioning is economically burdensome on the basis of a petition for exemption filed in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (f) of this section.

(3) *Programming other than English or Spanish language.* All programming for which the audio is in a language other than English or Spanish, except that scripted programming that can be captioned using the "electronic news room" technique is not exempt.

(4) *Primarily textual programming.* Video programming or portions of video programming for which the content of the soundtrack is displayed visually through text or graphics (e.g., program schedule channels or community bulletin boards).

(5) *Programming distributed in the late night hours.* Programming that is being distributed to residential households between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. local time. Video programming distributors providing a channel that consists of a service that is distributed and exhibited for viewing in more than a single time zone shall be exempt from closed captioning that service for any continuous 4 hour time period they may select, commencing not earlier than 12 a.m. local time and ending not later than 7 a.m. local time in any location where that service is intended for viewing. This exemption is to be determined based on the primary reception locations and remains applicable even if the transmission is accessible and distributed or exhibited in other time zones on a secondary basis. Video programming distributors providing service outside of the 48 contiguous states may treat as exempt programming that is exempt under this paragraph when distributed in the contiguous states.

(6) *Interstitials, promotional announcements and public service announcements.* Interstitial material, promotional announcements, and public service announcements that are 10 minutes or less in duration.

(7) *EBS programming.* Video programming transmitted by an Educational Broadband Service licensee pursuant to part 27 of this chapter.

(8) *Locally produced and distributed non-news programming with no repeat value.* Programming that is locally produced by the video programming distributor, has no repeat value, is of local public interest, is not news programming, and for which the "electronic news room" technique of captioning is unavailable.

Boston has mandated increased transparency of government deliberations and, as a result, Boston's Broadband and Cable Office has introduced public meeting coverage for City Boards and Commissions that includes closed captioning, online document presentation, live cable, and online video presentation of hearings with captions. Boston City TV works with the City's digital team to keep information accessible and to leverage technology.

To provide closed-captioning ("CC") of the televised public meeting proceedings, the Cable Office spends over \$120,000 annually on captioning services and also has invested in networked remote live CC services in a number of city buildings to achieve cable and online captioning across multiple platforms. CC is not a requirement for government access television, but it is part of the transparency initiative of local government in Boston.

Neither Boston nor BNN-TV believe that any registration or certification under the FCC's closed captioning rules are necessary, yet should the Commission seek to enforce such rules, each will comply. But, our understanding of the new rules compels us to note that if they must expend time, efforts and funds to register every individual community programmer, the task would be overwhelming, and those are resources that might otherwise be employed to

(9) *Programming on new networks.* Programming on a video programming network for the first four years after it begins operation, except that programming on a video programming network that was in operation less than four (4) years on January 1, 1998 is exempt until January 1, 2002.

(10) *Primarily non-vocal musical programming.* Programming that consists primarily of non-vocal music.

(11) *Captioning expense in excess of 2 percent of gross revenues.* No video programming provider shall be required to expend any money to caption any video programming if such expenditure would exceed 2 percent of the gross revenues received from that channel during the previous calendar year.

(12) *Channels/Streams producing revenues of under \$3,000,000.* No video programming provider shall be required to expend any money to caption any channel or stream of video programming producing annual gross revenues of less than \$3,000,000 during the previous calendar year other than the obligation to pass through video programming closed captioned when received pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. For the purposes of this paragraph, each programming stream on a multicast digital television channel shall be considered separately for purposes of the \$3,000,000 revenue limit.

(13) *Locally produced educational programming.* Instructional programming that is locally produced by public television stations for use in grades K-12 and post-secondary schools.

produce and caption additional programming for the community's benefit, and which may not be available through other media channels in Boston.

II. BACKGROUND

The Federal Communications Commission published a Final Rule⁵ in the Federal Register on August 23, 2016, imposing new reporting requirements on public, educational and governmental access programming with respect to the closed captioning of video programming on television. These obligations include:

- (1) New requirements to certify compliance with or exemption from the FCC's closed captioning rules;
- (2) Introduction of a "burden-shifting" model for the resolution of complaints about closed captioning; and
- (3) Introduction of a new "Video Programmer Registration" system in which PEG access stations will have to provide contact information into the FCC's website.

The Alliance for Community Media, the national association of PEG programmers and stations, filed a Petition for Waiver from the new reporting rules for all PEG access programmers.⁶ The waiver being sought for video programming producers would exempt programmers that are not PEG access stations from both the compliance certification and the registration requirement.

The petition for waiver does not seek to change compliance certification and registration requirements for PEG stations,⁷ so much as it is seeking an exemption for those who produce

⁵ Closed Captioning of Video Programming; Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc., Petition for Rulemaking [CG Docket No. 05-231; FCC 16-17] ("Final Rule").

⁶ Petition for Waiver of Registration and Certification Requirement, Alliance for Community Media ("ACM") (Filed August 25, 2016). Specifically, ACM is seeking waiver of 47 CFR 79.1(m), to be discussed *infra*.

⁷ *Id.*, at 2. "We do not dispute the usefulness of registration and certification of exemption status for PEG channels as put forth by the Order. ACM believes this will provide consumers useful and necessary information and will speed the resolution of complaints to Video Program Distributors (VPDs) and the Commission. However, the registration and certification of these video program owners – most of whom are non-professionals and average

video programming for such stations. As was expressed in a previous letter filed by ACM in March of 2016, the absence of an exception for programmers “could mean tens of thousands of ordinary citizens and organizations – Girl Scouts, gospel choirs, political candidates, and community groups of every possible stripe – will be required to certify to the Commission on a yearly basis that their programming is exempt due to their distribution on exempt PEG channels.”⁸

III. DISTRIBUTORS OR CHANNELS VS. PROGRAMMERS

Federal regulations governing cable television largely divide the world into video programming distributors (“VPDs”) and video programmers. PEG access stations are video programmers, not VPDs. Programming owners are defined as entities that either license programming to a distributor, or act as a distributor in licensing video programming intended for households.

So while PEG access programmers are generally *not* considered VPDs, these new regulations are being imposed upon PEG access stations either in their existing role as video programmers, or in their role as program owners. And absent a waiver for video programmers, many thousands of entities offering programming on public and governmental access stations will be required to register with the FCC, as discussed above.

Previously, the obligation to provide closed captioning information fell primarily on VPDs. The obligations borne by video programmers and video program owners were, in most respects, subsidiary to the VPD’s obligation to ensure closed captioning. In this Final Rule, that has changed. Video programmers have new compliance obligations.

citizens who merely wish to use PEG Access channels in their communities – is needless if they are distributing programs on channels that are exempt from captioning under the Commission’s rules, as many PEG channels are.”

⁸ The Alliance for Community Media, in a March 28, 2016, letter to the FCC, at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/60001560855.pdf>.

Most significantly, the obligation to provide closed captioning has been broadened from one primarily falling on VPDs to one falling on both VPDs and video programmers, including programming owners. VPDs are responsible for ensuring that 100 percent of new, nonexempt English and Spanish language video programming is closed-captioned.⁹ Similarly, video programmers must provide closed captioning on 100 percent of new, nonexempt English and Spanish language video programming.¹⁰ One important reason for this change, the FCC holds, was the ability for video programmers to escape responsibility for closed captioning by providing an indemnification to the VPD, which was previously the entity primarily responsible for compliance.¹¹ The FCC concluded that closed captioning will improve if VPD and video programmers share in the responsibilities. “By allowing the Commission to take enforcement action against video programmers as well as VPDs, it will create incentives for both entities to take actions within their control to resolve quality problems swiftly and to the satisfaction of consumers.”¹²

The Order puts in place new requirements to make certification of closed caption mandatory, and to make such certification directly to the FCC.¹³ Previously, video programmers made certifications of compliance with closed captioning rules to VPDs,¹⁴ or alternatively, permitted a VPD to exercise its best efforts to obtain certification of compliance by video programmers.¹⁵ Additionally, a third section of the FCC rules governing closed captioning

⁹ Final Rule, page 42, new section 79.1(b)(1)(i).

¹⁰ *Id.*, new section 79.1(b)(1)(ii).

¹¹ *Id.*, para. 13.

¹² *Id.*, para. 14.

¹³ *Id.*, para. 20.

¹⁴ 47 CFR 79.1(g)(6).

¹⁵ 47 CFR 79.1(j)(1).

created Video Programmer Best Practices,”¹⁶ and required video programmers who adopted such practices to certify to VPDs that they adhered to such practices by posting such certification on affiliated web sites.¹⁷

IV. PEG PROGRAMMING AND PROGRAMMERS IN BOSTON

Boston has five access channels that are managed in part by Boston, Boston City TV and Boston Kids & Family TV, and the community pursuant to a contract with BNN-TV.

These public access channels are described as follows:

	<i>Programming</i>	<i>Channels</i>
	<p>Boston City TV is the city TV and stream service featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> city news, boards & commission meetings, Game of the Week (GoW) high school sports coverage, as well as public affairs and educational programming. 	 On Comcast 24 & RCN 13. www.cityofboston.gov/cable/live.asp  Boston City TV Live Stream
	<p>Boston Kids & Family TV features children and family programming — including Arthur and Sesame Street — in partnership with WGBH-Boston and the Corp. for Public Broadcasting.</p>	 On Comcast 22 & RCN 3. www.wgbh.org/kids/boston_kids_family.cfm
	<p>Boston City Council Television features City Council Committee hearings and weekly City Council meetings</p>	 On Comcast 8 & RCN 82. 617-635-2208 BCCTV@CityofBoston.gov

¹⁶ 47 CFR 79.1(k)(1).

¹⁷ 47 CFR 79.1(k)(1)(iv).

	Programming	Channels
Boston City Council TV		<p>You Tube</p> <p>Boston City Council</p> <p>www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil/live.asp</p>
	<p>WBCA 102.9 FM, a partnership between Boston Neighborhood Network and the City of Boston.</p> <p>BNN's low-power (LPFM) community radio station airs daily from 6:00 pm to 2:00 am.</p>	<p>www.bnntv.org/programming/radio</p> <p>Coming Soon... WBCA live streaming!</p>
	<p>Boston Neighborhood Network TV features diverse programming for Boston viewers.</p> <p>BNN also offers training in - and access to - TV & digital production equipment for all Bostonians.</p> <p>Learn how to create your own TV program, or a/v projects for digital platforms!</p>	<p>BNN's News and Information on Comcast 9 & RCN 15.</p> <p>You Tube</p> <p>BNN's Community TV on Comcast 23 & RCN 83.</p> <p>BNN, 3025 Washington St., Boston 617-708-3200 www.bnntv.org</p>

As the reports attached hereto (Attachment A) and incorporated herein reflect, in the past year, hundreds of programmers, agencies and staff have offered thousands of hours of programming on these community channels. For example, last year BNN-TV managed 3,536 new shows for 365 days of 24 hour programming¹⁸ on the two community channels and that programming included:

¹⁸ Examples of the independent programs include Common Ground, Vital Concerns, Seniors Count, Disability Connection, Age Wise Boston, ABCD Now!, Life Matters and Dialogue Francophone. The programmers producing

- 68 new shows per week¹⁹
- 2,475 shows produced in Boston (70%)
- 1,990 shows produced by BNN members
- 485 shows produced by BNN staff
- 660 live shows, and
- 15 different languages featured in programming.

An essential part of the BNN-TV mission is to provide local programming not available through other media channels in Boston. In FY16, over 800 organizations participated, including as organizational members and show producers; and through show profiles, guest appearances, event coverage, and other collaborations²⁰. BNN-TV studios were well utilized in FY16 by 22 Boston community organizations and 78 Boston community producers.

To register with the FCC and certify they are exempt from captioning requirements would be challenging, perhaps overwhelming, and certainly a deterrent to such community producers who use the channels. The administrative burden would create an obstacle to the established congressional intent of creating PEG channels to provide access and voice to the community through the cable television system and to engage in the civic, social and cultural fabric of the city.

While we appreciate the consumer feedback the registration process will generate, we do not believe that registering PEG access producers on exempt channels will help consumers.

these shows are community residents, artists, advocates, ministers, social services agencies and elder service providers using BNN-TV channels.

¹⁹ BNN News produced 239 new programs while profiling 181 non-profit, advocacy, faith, arts and community organizations.

²⁰ Other programs produced by the BNN-TV production services team included: 39 high school and Boston Neighborhood League games; 9 neighborhood parades; 2 Roxbury Community College basketball games; 4 live special elections; and 5 *Boston Editor's Roundtable* (newest public affairs offering).

Indeed, as a practical exercise, the required filings by programmers who produce one, two or a dozen programs per year could likely overwhelm the data reporting intent.

V. CONCLUSION

Nothing in these comments should be read as Boston opposing closed captioning. Boston is actively scaling up the captioning of programming on the government access channels, voluntarily and without obligation. Boston City TV and City Council TV already spend approximately 20% of their respective budgets to provide captioning service on TV and online. Likewise, BNN-TV is aggressively pursuing software-generated captioning solutions, an alternative path that BNN hopes will avoid the financial burden of live-captioning their programming.

The resources required to register every single programmer on our PEG channels and have them certify they are entitled to the Commission's exemptions from captioning would take

away assets that might otherwise be used to expand captioning efforts. For these reasons, Boston and BNN support the ACM Petition and call for the Commission to take prompt action to clarify the rule.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael Lynch

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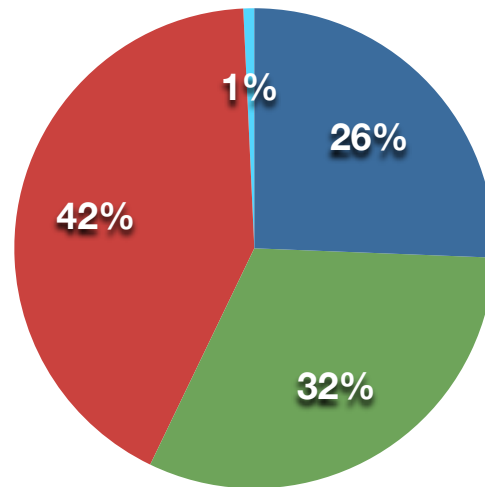
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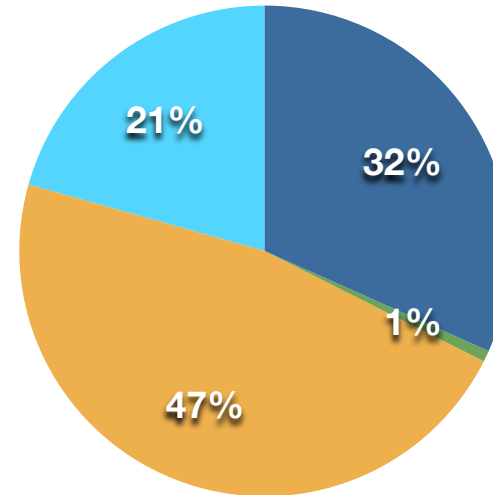
BNN Programming FY16
7/1/15 - 6/30/16

Number of Shows by Source

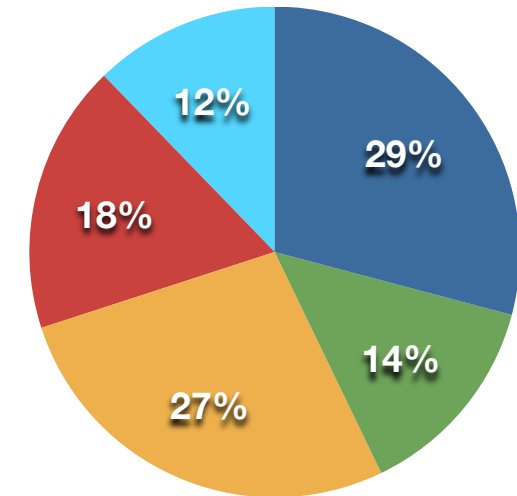
News and Information
Channel 9 : Comcast
Channel 15 : RCN



Community TV
Channel 23 : Comcast
Channel 83 : RCN



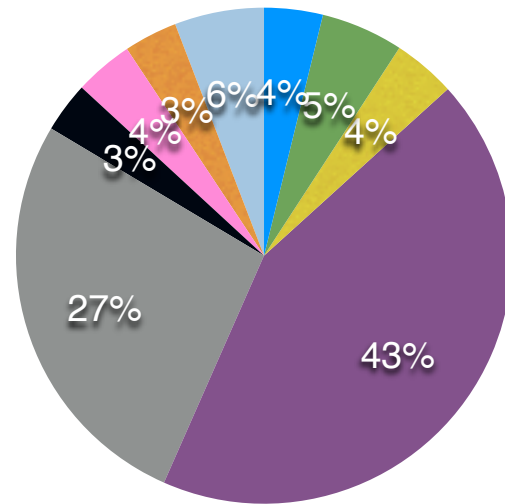
News & Information
& Community TV
combined



- BNN member produced - Shows produced by current members that utilize BNN facilities and/or equipment
- BNN staff produced - Includes NNN, Around Town, Mayor's Game of the Week and more
- Boston produced - Shows produced by current members in Boston without the use of BNN facilities or equipment
- Imported (satellite) - Shows produced by Free Speech TV and delivered via Dish Network
- Imported (non-satellite) - Shows produced outside of Boston and sponsored by BNN members

Note:
Percentage labels on graphs are rounded to nearest decimal place.

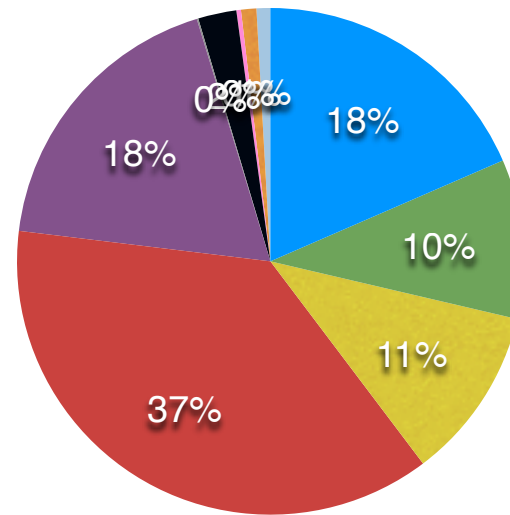
Channel 9 (News & Information)



Category	# of shows	% of total
Arts & Entertainment	57	3.8%
Cultural Expression	80	5.4%
Educational	61	4.1%
Faith Based	0	0.0%
News & Current Events	646	43.3%
Other	402	27.0%
Politics	49	3.3%
Seniors	57	3.8%
Sports	52	3.5%
Youth	87	5.8%

Channel Content by Program Category

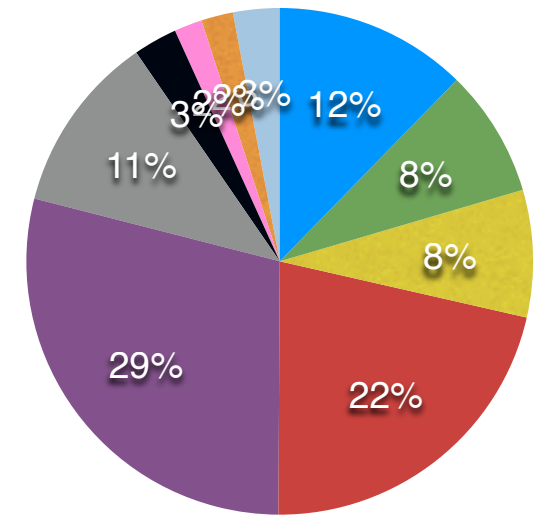
Channel 23 (Community TV)



Category	# of shows	% of total
Arts & Entertainment	378	18.5%
Cultural Expression	208	10.2%
Educational	226	11.1%
Faith Based	761	37.2%
News & Current Events	376	18.4%
Other	2	0.1%
Politics	50	2.4%
Seniors	6	0.3%
Sports	20	1.0%
Youth	18	0.9%



Channels 9 & 23 Combined

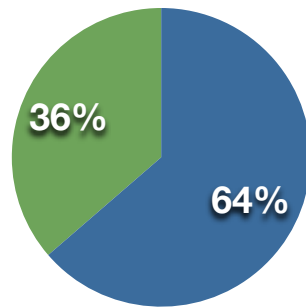


Category	# of shows	% of total
Arts & Entertainment	435	12.3%
Cultural Expression	288	8.1%
Educational	287	8.1%
Faith Based	761	21.5%
News & Current Events	1022	28.9%
Other	404	11.4%
Politics	99	2.8%
Seniors	63	1.8%
Sports	72	2.0%
Youth	105	3.0%

Note: Program categories were determined through a strategic plan group process
Percentage labels on graphs are rounded to nearest decimal place

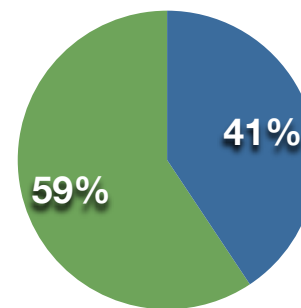
Number of Live / Taped (Pre-recorded) BNN Studio Productions by location

Community TV
Studio A



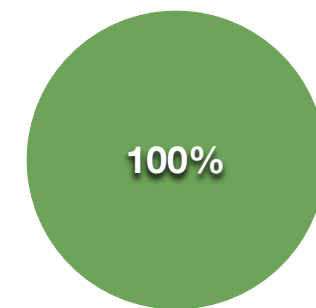
	# of shows	% of total
Live	422	64%
Pre-recorded	241	36%
Total	663	

BNN Live
Studio B



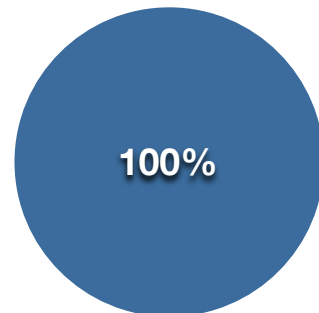
	# of shows	% of total
Live	174	41%
Pre-recorded	254	59%
Total	428	

Boston University



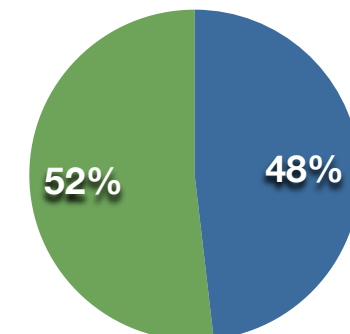
	# of shows	% of total
Live	0	0%
Pre-recorded	237	100%
Total	237	

Roxbury
Community
College



	# of shows	% of total
Live	84	100%
Pre-recorded	0	0%
Total	84	

All Studios



	# of shows	% of total
Live	680	48%
Pre-recorded	732	52%
Total	1412	

GOVERNANCE

- Boston trial lawyer and former Assistant District Attorney Lucy Rivera joined the Board of Directors. She is a panel member of Suffolk Lawyers for Justice, past president of the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys (MAHA) and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Ms. Rivera produces *Discovering the Law*, a BNNLive program that explores topics related to politics, the economy and society from a legal perspective.
- On May 18, 2016, Old South Church honored Sarah-Ann Shaw (BNN Board Vice President and Boston's first African-American female television reporter) with Open Door Award.

OPERATIONS/ADMINISTRATION

- We serve Boston non-profits, public agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations in many ways. In FY16, over 800 organizations participated, including as organizational members and show producers; and through show profiles, guest appearances, event coverage, and other collaborations.
- BNN television studios were well utilized:
 - 22 Boston community organizations produced 428 BNNLive shows; 285 organizations served
 - 78 community producers completed 663 shows using the Community TV studio; 140 organizations served
- Utilization of other facilities and resources included:
 - Media Lab/Edit Room Hours 4,871
 - Camera Checkouts 249
 - Production truck shoots 48
- Progress continued in our expansion of youth opportunities:
 - In the *My Voice Summer Youth Media Camp*, we joined forces with Boston Public Schools/Adobe Youth Voices to provide training in multimedia and studio production to 13 Boston high school youth (2,223 hours of participation). Each participant produced a short film and engaged in TV studio discussions with peers about the important issues raised, including violence, discrimination and challenges for students with learning disabilities. They also welcomed and recorded studio segments with other youth groups, including The BASE, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, and the West End House (another 14 participants). One of the resulting TV programs received an award from the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region in the category of Diversity Empowerment. Program funding was provided with grants from Boston Foundation ("My Summer in the City" grant), Boston Centers for Youth and Families ("Summer Fun" and "Summer Mentoring" grants), and MassHousing/HoodFit, with collaborative support from the Timothy Smith Network.
 - Following the success of the summer program, BNN was approved as a work site by the City of Boston's Division of Youth Engagement and Employment, through Success Link's School-Year Youth Employment Program, providing paid positions for three Boston high-school students as BNN-TV *Youth Voices* Media Production Assistants (528 participation hours).

- We partnered with BCYF and Vine Street Community Center to pilot a unique enrichment course for their students in field production at their facility. Nine children aged 9-13 learned basic camera operations and audio and produced three programs (224 participation hours).
- 15 students from Codman Academy Charter Public School participated in specialized media production workshops and produced a series of thought-provoking public service announcements (450 participation hours).
- Madison Park High School students gained experience with television production as part of the BNN *ExtraHelp* studio crew at Roxbury Community College and presented their series *The Eye* on BNN-TV.
- We held meetings in Allston, Roxbury and South Boston to announce BNN's new low-power radio station and get input from the community. BNN Radio WBCA 102.9 FM, a non-commercial community radio station, is operated by BNN under the FCC license granted to the City of Boston. We developed policies, conducted a job search for Station Manager, and began beta testing with *BNN News* and *BNNLive* programming with great success.

MARKETING/ OUTREACH/ MEMBERSHIP

- We commissioned a Citywide Community Media Survey to measure Boston cable subscribers' awareness and support of the community-based services BNN provides.
 - 4 of 5 respondents feel BNN community channels, featuring local content, are important.
 - 3 of 4 agree are programs are of interest.
 - 9 of 10 agree public access to training, production facilities and channels is a good community service.
 - 9 of 10 respondents whose first language is not English feel BNN programs are of interest
 - Support for BNN is strong across all age groups, especially among those under 40.
- 77 students from youth organizations including Wang YMCA and Boston English High School learned about BNN and community media production through hands-on facility tours (154 participation hours).
- 18 Boston seniors completed the extensive "Intro to Technology for Older Adults" program with funding from a Tufts Health Plan Foundation grant.
- Artists from neighborhood art groups around the city, including Veterans Reading Brigade and West Roxbury Art Association, shared their art on our gallery space and on the BNN Digital Art Gallery on our channels and website. Gallery openings were cablecast live on the long-running show *It's All About Arts*.
- Community screenings provided BNN members with an opportunity to share and discuss their shows.
- We hosted community events including: Annual Meeting; ReadBoston fundraiser; Boston Association of Black Journalists conference.
- 37 interns from 16 higher education institutions learned television production, programming, marketing and production services through hands-on experience.
- We partnered with Constant Contact to offer free and low cost technology workshops to the community, NPO's and members.
- We had 255 participants in educational offerings, including:
 - 10 multiple-session workshops

- 5 youth programs
- 2 senior programs
- 20 other classes, orientations and hands-on tours

PRODUCTION

- An essential part of our mission is to provide local programming not available through other media channels in Boston. The typical model of community media in this country is to provide training and access for people to make their own programs, as we do extensively at BNN. But we also create programming ourselves that greatly surpasses the output of most community media centers. Through this programming we offer many other ways to engage community participation, while providing Boston-focused news and information, filling a need that is not being met by other media outlets.
- BNN News produced 239 new programs while profiling 181 non-profit, advocacy, faith, arts and community organizations.
- Production contracts, including substantial support from Comcast for local origination programming, have enabled us to create a tremendous number and variety of BNN staff-produced programs this year. Some highlights include:
 - *Around Town* is a series that profiles groups, organizations and community events throughout the City of Boston that go unnoticed by other media outlets – at no charge to the organizations, thanks to Comcast funding. The episode “Vietnam Veteran’s Appreciation Day” received an award from the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region in the category of Event Coverage. 34 new shows featured community events in neighborhoods throughout the city (61 organizations served).
 - In collaboration with Boston Public Schools and Roxbury Community College, *ExtraHelp* provided 84 hours of live, interactive programming offering homework help to young viewers.
 - *Boston Profiles* is a series presenting in-depth discussions with individuals having a positive impact throughout Boston’s neighborhoods. (4 new shows.)
 - We produced coverage of *Mayor’s Cup Hockey* 13 games.
- Other programs produced by our production services team included:
 - Collaborations with the City:
 - 39 high school and Boston Neighborhood Basketball League games
 - 9 neighborhood parades
 - 2 Roxbury Community College basketball games
 - 32 new *Talk of the Neighborhoods* shows produced in Studio B
 - 4 live election specials
 - 5 *Boston Editor’s Roundtable* (our newest public affairs offering, featuring community newspaper editors discussing the stories making news in their neighborhoods)
 - 7 other programs of community events
- In total, BNN produced 485 new programs in FY16.

PLAYBACK

- The Program Scheduling and Distribution Manager effectively delivered programming from a wide array of sources, including: live program feeds from our two studios, Roxbury Community College and Emerson College; satellite; digital files received electronically; and DVD's.
- We successfully managed the scheduling and playback of 3536 new shows for 365 days of 24 hour programming on two channels. Programming included:
 - 68 new shows/week
 - 2475 shows produced in Boston (70%)
 - 1990 shows produced by BNN members
 - 485 shows produced by BNN staff
 - 660 live shows (13/week)
 - 15 different languages
- We successfully beta-tested VOD (Video On Demand) capacity with BNN staff and member produced programs to prepare for pending VOD expansion.

ENGINEERING

Projects included:

- New Production Truck
 - Completed production truck layout
 - Ordered and received truck
 - Finalized equipment design
 - Ordered and received equipment
 - Commenced construction
- BNN Radio WBCA 102.9 FM
 - Transmitter site up and running
 - Radio automation and servers installed
 - Small preliminary radio room installed
 - Station on air
 - Emergency Alert Systems in place
 - Finalized phase two radio studio plans with architect and team
- Website improvements
 - Secured vendor and signed contract for website SLA and updates
 - Restructured web team to set goals, track issues, clean up past site issues
 - Moved existing site to new web hosting solution
- Server and playback rooms cooling project
 - Researched cooling needs
 - Sourced vendors and received estimates
 - Oversaw project to completion
- Upgraded BNN News edit system